

App. No. 10/798,098
Amdt. dated Oct. 6, 2005
Reply to Office Action of Sept. 28, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A detent joint for use with mirrors having first and second hinge pieces, said detent joint interconnecting said first and second hinge pieces about an axis of rotation:

a detent element carried by one of said first and second hinge pieces, said detent element being secured in a plane transverse to the axis of rotation and movable along an axis in a direction of engagement;

a spring element carried by said one hinge piece exerting a force on the detent element in the direction of engagement;

said detent element having an engagement surface with at least two protruding teeth;

a counter surface carried by a second of said first and second hinge elements which includes a plurality of cuts for determining at least one detent position; wherein,

when the at least two teeth of the detent element are engaged with at least two of said cuts in the counter surface, said detent joint locks said first and second hinge elements in said one detent position.

Claim 2 (original): The detent joint according to claim 1, including a slide bearing supporting said detent element for movement in the direction of engagement.

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Claim 3 (original): The detent joint, according to claim 2, wherein said slide bearing includes a stop.

Claim 4 (original): The detent joint, according to claim 3, wherein said stop comprises a slot in the slide bearing.

Claim 5 (original): The detent joint, according to claim 4, wherein said stop further includes a bore formed in the detent element adjacent said slot and a pin carried in said bore extending through said slot wherein movement of the detent element in the engagement direction is limited.

Claim 6 (original): The detent joint, according to claim 1, wherein said axis of said direction of engagement is laterally spaced apart from the axis of rotation.

Claim 7 (original): The detent joint, according to claim 1, wherein said axis of rotation is positioned relative to the direction of engagement and the detent element to allow said one hinge piece to be rotated relative to said second hinge piece into a position allowing said detent element to be inserted into and removed from said one hinge piece.

Claim 8 (original): The detent joint, according to claim 1, including a rod secured with the first hinge piece forming said axis of rotation.

Claim 9 (original): The detent joint, according to claim 1, wherein the spring element comprises a flat spring carried between the detent element and the first hinge piece, said spring acting to push the detent element in the direction of the engagement.

Claim 10 (original): The detent joint, according to claim 1, wherein the spring element comprises a coil spring carried between the detent element and the first hinge piece, said spring acting to push the detent element in the direction of the engagement.

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Claim 11 (original): The detent joint to claim 1 wherein the counter surface has more than two of said cuts.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A mirror mount for use with vehicles comprising:

a first hinge piece for carrying a mirror having a first end;

a second hinge piece for securing with a vehicle having a first end, said first ends forming a pivot along a first axis between said first and second hinge pieces;

a detent element carried by one of said first and second hinge pieces, said detent element having an engagement surface and being movable along a second axis offset from said first axis;

a counter surface carried by the other of said first and second hinge pieces, said counter surface being adapted to engage with said engagement surface;

a spring carried by said detent element, said spring urging said detent element along said second axis toward said counter surface; wherein,

when said first hinge piece ~~may be~~ is rotated about said first axis into selected positions relative to said second hinge piece ~~with~~ said detent element ~~being~~ is moved along said second axis ~~while~~ engaging between said contoured surface and locking said first and second hinge pieces in said selected positions.

Claim 13 (original): The mirror mount of claim 12 wherein said pivot allows said first and second hinge pieces relative movement into a position in which said detent element may be removed from said one of said first and second hinge pieces.

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Claim 14 (original): The mirror mount of claim 12 wherein said one of said first and second hinge pieces includes a bearing surface for supporting said detent element for movement along said second axis.

Claim 15 (original): The mirror mount of claim 12 including limit means carried by said one of said first and second hinge pieces and said detent element said limit means limiting movement of said detent element along said bearing surface.

Claim 16 (original): The mirror mount of claim 12 wherein said second axis is perpendicular of said first axis.

Claim 17 (original): An external mirror mount comprising:

- a first hinge piece carrying a mirror and having a first end;

- a second hinge piece for securing with a vehicle having a first end, said first ends being adapted to form a pivot along a first axis between said first and second hinge pieces;

- a counter surface carried by one of said first and second hinge pieces;

- a slide bearing formed in the other of said first and second hinge pieces, said slide bearing being arranged along a second axis transverse of said first axis;

- a detent element carried in said slide bearing and movable along said second axis, said detent element having an engagement surface adapted to engage with said counter surface to position said first and second hinge pieces in selected positions;

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a stop associated with said other of said first and second hinge pieces and said detent element for limiting movement of said detent element along said second axis in said slide bearing; and

spring means carried by said detent element acting with said other of said first and second hinge pieces to urge said detent element in a direction toward said first end of said other of said first and second hinge pieces.

Claim 18 (original): The external mirror mount of claim 17 wherein said detent element includes a pair of spaced slits which receive opposed ends of said spring.

Claim 19 (original): The external mirror mount of claim 18 wherein said slide bearing includes a nib, said nib being positioned to deform said spring providing force urging said detent element toward said one end.

Claim 20 (original): The external mirror mount of claim 17 wherein the other of said first and second hinge pieces includes a pair of slide bearing each carrying a detent element and arranged along a common plane.

Claim 21 (original): The external mirror mount of claim 17 wherein said counter surface includes a plurality of notches and said detent element includes a plurality of teeth, wherein a plurality of said teeth are adapted to be engaged in a plurality of said notches positioning said first and second hinge pieces in desired selected positions.

Claim 22 (original): The external mirror mount of claim 21 wherein there are two of said teeth and in excess of two of said notches.